

2015-2016 Grant Recipients

Nine applicants requested \$26,443.27

The Collin County Historical Commission approved nine grant applications on June 25 for \$24,000.

1. Historic Education: Allen Heritage Guild The “Farm Chores” Little Garden Requested \$600 Grant \$600

The “Farm Chores” Little Garden will be set up in a corner of the Allen Depot for young children to experience chores that other children did on the farm. This way the children have activities to do while the parents tour the museum. The farm area will also be used by the various scouts that visit the museum.

Guild volunteers have researched what was grown in Allen in the early 1920’s to the 1950’s in order to be true to our mission of promoting Allen’s heritage in educating the children and parents about Allen’s history. Children will be able to play in the garden area and have many hands on experiences, such as picking cotton, corn, peaches, and other vegetables. Gathering eggs from under the chicken will also be an activity. Repeated playing with the objects will be encouraged. Each area of the garden will have signs and pictures of real gardens, corn fields and cotton fields. Straw hats, bonnets, vegetable baskets, and cotton picking bags will be nearby for the children to use as they work on the chores.

2 Historic Preservation: Anna Area Historic Preservation Society Lair Cemetery Restoration Project Requested \$2,444.08 Grant \$2,444

The Lair Cemetery Restoration Project was created to preserve the Lair Cemetery a vital Collin County legacy. The Lair Cemetery, near Anna, has been in existence since 1855 with the last burial in 1986. The cemetery is approximately 65 feet square. The Lair Cemetery was named for Dr. William Dixon Lair, who was elected to the Texas State Senate twice from 1863 to 1865 and 1881 to 1883. Dr. Lair was a pioneer doctor who served Anna, Mellissa and Mantua. Since 2013 all the damaged markers have been restored but eleven. The Anna Area Historic Preservation Society plans to restore the remaining markers by Rusty Brenner of Texas Cemetery Restoration. In addition the society plans to begin the process of creating the walkways from the parking area into and through the gate and within the Lair Cemetery to help keep the landscaping and graves intact.

3. Historic Preservation: Bear Creek Cemetery Foundation Restore Damaged Markers Requested \$4,000 Grant \$4,000

The Bear Creek Cemetery, near Nevada, contains about 180 marked graves, including some that are only marked with bois d’ arc posts or fieldstones. Many markers are broken, crooked, leaning, fallen, and are in need of cleaning. Thanks in part to the four grants from the Collin County Historical Commission Bear Creek Cemetery Foundation has restored 117 of the grave markers. Our plan for this project is to repair at least 6 of the worst of the remaining damaged markers. Also the Foundation wants to install new simple markers, including just names and dates, for about ten markers that can no longer be read. This is important so the information will be available and the deceased will not be forgotten. Both the members of the Masonic Lodge 586 in Nevada, Texas and Boy Scout

Troop 1814 have expressed interest in helping with this project. This will help reduce the costs and enable us to repair more makers.

4. Historic Preservation: Chambersville Cemetery Association Marker Repair, Cleaning and Leveling of Monuments Requested \$4,500 Grant \$4,500

The Association has identified seventeen markers in need of cleaning, leveling or repair. The Chambersville Cemetery has been in use since 1853. It is located in Collin County approximately ten miles North West of McKinney, Texas, at the intersection County Road 206 and 281 and is an active cemetery. The Texas Cemetery Restoration, LLC under the leadership of James “Rusty” Brenner-Owner/Craftsman will undertake a project to repair, level and clean monuments in the Cemetery. In addition the markers will be restored to their original readability through marker cleaning. Community involvement would be encouraged by using the contact data base of community and family members to solicit additional funding to repair, level and clean family monuments. Weather permitting the project will begin in October 2015 and be completed in January 2016. Success of the project will be measured in the repaired monuments and improved overall appearance of the Cemetery. The needed repairs to the monuments will insure that the Cemetery remains a vital source of community pride and historical heritage for years to come.

5. Historic Preservation and Education: Heritage Guild of Collin County Replace Porches of the Taylor Inn and Dulaney Cottage Requested \$2,000 Grant \$2,000

The 1863 Taylor House at Chestnut Square is considered a favorite landmark in the seat of Collin County. It is frequently used to educate young and old alike through public tours, school tours, prairie adventure camps and boy scout/girl scout workshops.

Demonstrations are commonly held on the porch of the Taylor Inn, which include butter churning, cotton combing, and laundry cleaned with a washboard. Replacing the porch would primarily require purchase of materials. Lumber required to replace the porch would include 1x4 for flooring, vertical posts, paint and primer.

The 1870 Dulaney Cottage porch is located adjacent to the Taylor Inn, making it an ideal setting for additional educational demonstrations. Tours can accommodate over 130 students, parents and teachers. Replacing both porches would create the necessary space and ideal setting to accurately teach, educate and engage the public on the lifestyle and culture of Collin County founders from the 1800's.

6. Historic Preservation and Education: Heritage Guild of Collin County Repair and add flashing to chimneys in the Dulaney Cottage Requested \$3,000 Grant \$3,000

The original chimney of the 1870 Dulaney Cottage still stands in Dr. and Mrs. Dulaney's bedroom while the second chimney is attached to the kitchen. Due to the excessive rains as of late, the Guild has become aware of water damage to the cottage. Repairs to the chimney and adding flashing, should alleviate this issue. Addressing fundamental repairs such as water damage will allow us to continue to preserve this cottage adequately, while allowing guests and students to experience life and customs typical to prominent McKinney citizens like the Dulaney's. With repairs made to the chimneys, Chestnut

Square can continue to provide school programs and activities offered through Prairie Adventure Camp for many years to come.

**7. Historic Preservation and Education: Heritage Farmstead Museum of Plano
Restore the One Room School House Requested \$2,500 Grant \$2,400**

The accurate reproduction of an existing one room school in Ponder, Texas is one of the museum's most popular attractions for field trips, school tours as well as the daily public tour. All of a sudden the students are transported back to a different era when ink wells, slates, and potbellied stoves were normal and walking three to ten miles to school was a way of life and you were in class with children six years older.

The weather over the years has taken a serious toll on the structure. The paint is peeling away from the outside of the building; wood on the building is rotted out, the exterior wood door is warped, and the antique bell is cracked. The interior of the school house needs paint to protect and preserve the integrity of the structure. The distressed wood floor needs to be resealed. Over the years many of the interpretive artifacts have become worn or yellowed and need replacement. The Heritage Farmstead Museum would like to see the one room school house restored for it to be utilized in all tours, special programs and annual events.

**8. Historic Preservation: The Murphy Historical Society Restoration of the
Murphy Family Cemetery Requested \$3,009.80 Grant \$3,010**

The Murphy Historical Society plans to focus on the Murphy Family Cemetery, which is in desperate need of repair. The Murphy Family Cemetery is located on North Maxwell Creek Road on what was once the William Andrew Murphy farm and this cemetery contains less than thirty graves on approximately half an acre. Murphy's namesake, William and Dorothy started the cemetery in 1872. The Society is applying for a grant to level, repair, and clean the large granite tombstones for William and Dorothy Murphy, Dr. William and Dorothy King, and J.L. and Susan Moulden that are leaning and are in danger of breaking. The name plate made of brick and placed by Dessie Haker is in danger of falling and breaking and needs to be leveled. Other stones need attention. Large equipment is needed to level, repair, and clean the major stones. In addition, the society wants to purchase headstone markers to identify two markers that are almost unreadable. They are for Minday McMillen and M. Smith. The work will preserve the cemetery for future generations of city and county residents.

**9. The Historic Preservation and Education: Heard-Craig Center for the Arts
Install Ultraviolet Window Film and Acquire Prisms and Pinhole Camera Kit
Requested \$4,389.39 Grant \$2,046**

The Plano Conservancy plans to conduct a cemetery restoration workshop in partnership with The Center wants McKinney to know we are open and ready for visitors. Open window shades accomplish this. To do this while still protecting our collection, we need to add a near clear, ultraviolet and heat reducing film to all of the windows. Adding this protective film on the windows will not only protect the furnishings in the house but reduce heat, a dangerous contributor to deterioration of art, artifacts and furnishings. The Center has chosen the UV film rated by Winterthur which is the same manufacturer who

created the film covering the Mona Lisa at the Louvre. This film reduces ultraviolet light by 99% and it reduces solar heat by close to 50% without changing the appearance of the windows.

The Center would like to engage the public with interactive activities. The National Endowment for the Arts identified photography as one of the most popular informal learning categories. By including photography as an educational activity, visitors' attention will be captured. The Center hopes to partner with local artists and garden experts to add a rich, multi discipline learning experience. Our programs need supplies to allow visitors to have the hands on experience they seek from a cultural institution. Prisms and a pinhole camera kit are needed.